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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/626,965	07/27/2000	Tadashi Ohashi	1341.1055/JDH	1019

21171 7590 07/17/2002

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EXAMINER

LIANG, GWEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/626,965

Applicant(s)

OHASHI, TADASHI

Examiner

GWEN LIANG

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

1. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakayori et al., "Sakayori " (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,078).

With respect to claim 1, Sakayori discloses a component management system comprising:

storage unit ... (col. 1 lines 17-18, "As one example, information of components to be used is registered in and managed using data base 132."); (Abstract, "A method, system and program for managing quality information of components comprises by inputting and storing quality information of an ordered component, inputting quality information of a delivered component, checking the quality information of the delivered component, updating the stored quality information in accordance with a check result, and transmitting the updated quality information to a shop that uses the component. The component delivered to the shop is maintained in a matched relationship with associated quality information."); and

a server ... (See Fig. 1); and

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at least one client ... (See Fig. 2 for client/server communication through the network.); (col. 1 lines 23-26, "The data registered in the data base is searched from the terminals 133-1, 133-2, 133-3, and operators can obtain required information.").

Claims 2 and 10 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 1.

Claim 7 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2 and furthermore Sakayori discloses a component management device wherein

said management unit sends a notice of revision to said client ... (col. 1 lines 20-23, "When a change in a component occurs due to a design change, past records of specification changes and so on are registered as quality information in the data base for management."); (Abstract, "...updating the stored quality information in accordance with a check result, and transmitting the updated quality information to a shop that uses the component.").

and sends a notice of new registration to said client ..., and wherein said client takes out said component ... (col. 11 lines 29-48, "Information indicating that the part "d" is replaced by "d-1" and the unit "D" is replaced by "D-1" using the new part arrives via data bus 991 and is registered as quality information in a server data base 903. Updating of information in the data bases 911 and 903 is processed under control of the data update module 1602 (FIG. 16). When the quality information in the data base is changed, the data transfer module 1605 (FIG. 16, referred to as a resident process A hereinafter) in the server 901 is started up, whereby a transfer process of the quality information begins (such that the quality information is successively transferred to the queue 950) (processing 1, 2, 3, 4). The resident process A extracts the data to be transferred from the data base 903. Then, the resident process A searches and identifies the IP

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address, password, and user ID of the processing area at the transfer destination from the configuration management table 970. In the configuration management tables 970 and 980, the order issuing/receiving relationship between the shops is defined by the shop order issuing/receiving management module 1607 (FIG. 16). [It is inherent that the client must order a component before the order issuing/receiving management module can respond and for the client to issue an order, it is again inherent that a notice of a new component's registration is received.].”).

Claim 8 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2 and furthermore Sakayori discloses a component management device wherein said management unit conducts communications related to the development consignment of said product with a development maker side client ... (col. 2 lines 50-61, “For example, in the case of carrying out a quality inspection of the part "d-1" that has been substituted for the part "d" due to a design change, or in the case of carrying out a performance test of the unit "D-1" using the part "d-1", persons engaged in departments of design [analogous to a development maker side client], quality management, etc. may need to know about the arrival of the changed substance at an appropriate point in time. Conventionally, those persons would only become aware of the arrival of the changed substance upon receiving a notice [communications] from the part receiving department or by searching a data base to determine whether the changed substance has been delivered.”).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 3, 4, 6, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakayori et al., "Sakayori " (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,078) and further in view of Kavanagh et al., "Kavanagh" (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,965).

Claim 3 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2. However Sakayori does not explicitly disclose components constitute a hierarchical structure.

Kavanagh discloses a hierarchical structure ... (Abstract, "A database management system is disclosed having an object oriented representation of information describing characteristics of instances organized in a hierarchical structure that may be logically represented as a tree structure. The hierarchical structure includes a parent -child/class-subclass structure."); (col. 65 lines 4-11, "In step 631, the user navigates to and selects a class 1225 and chooses thesaurus entry editing 1226 from a drop down menu available by use of the right mouse button. In step 632, the thesaurus list is obtained from metadata for the class 1225 through the dynamic class manager 134. In step 633 the user edits the thesaurus using the thesaurus editor 1227 shown in FIG. 177 before returning to the retrieve parts window 1228."); (col. 65 lines 35-37, "In this way, the user can easily reuse thesaurus entries to create patterns that match similar forms of text that may be found in part descriptions for parts of a class. "); (col. 4 lines 32-37, "The present invention may be used to provide a part management system which has a number of advantageous features. A system in accordance with the present invention provides a tool for design engineers which enables them to intuitively, definitively, and virtually instantaneously find a released part ...").

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adopt a hierarchical structure and meta-information as disclosed by Kavanagh in a component database as disclosed in Sakayori. (col. 1 lines 8-12) The database is structured so that when an item does not have a value, nothing is stored. Therefore, memory space is not wasted storing null values, and search speed is improved.

Claim 4 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2. However Sakayori does not explicitly disclose information comprises taking-out limiting information related to the permission/non-permission of taking-out for each component ...

Kavanagh teaches ...taking-out limiting information related to the permission/non-permission of taking-out for each component, and wherein said client takes out the applicable component based on the taking-out limiting information only when said client gets the permission (col.4 lines 41-43 “.Through the use of an object oriented knowledge base, the present invention can make access to part data intuitive, instantaneous, definitive, and can encompass all parts “); (col. 15 lines 22-31, “A login procedure is initiated by a user logging into the retriever 130, as depicted in step 150 in FIG. 4A. The user's name and password are sent to the registry server 141, as shown in 151. In step 152, the user name and password are validated by the registry server 141. If the user name and password are not valid, the flow returns to step 150 and the user must try again. If the name and password are valid, the flow continues to step 153 in which the retriever 130 asks for an appropriate software license from the license manager 142.”).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize taking-out limiting information related to permission as disclosed

by Kavanagh to access the component data as disclosed in Sakayori. (col. 4 line 29) as a means to control unauthorized user access to the system.

Claim 6 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2. However Sakayori does not explicitly disclose that a client retrieves a desired component from among said plurality of components based on the meta-information.

Kavanagh teaches that a client retrieves a desired component from among said plurality of components based on the meta-information (col. 4 lines 49-63. "Part classes, sub-classes, part characteristics such as shape, material, and dimensions, among others [equivalent to meta-information], fit very well within the object oriented environment of the present invention. Parts are treated as objects within a parts family or "schema". The present invention uses attribute searches, which offer decided advantages over generic key-word searches. The incomplete search problems associated with key-word matching which are described above with reference to Table 1 may be solved when the same data is restructured as parametric attributes. A parametric attribute description consists of (1) reducing all terminology to some standard form, (2) describing each term as some value of an attribute related to an object or subclass, and (3) ordering the set of attributes of the object.").

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adopt the client retrieval method as disclosed by Kavanagh to search the component data as disclosed in Sakayori. (col. 4 lines 55-59) to solve the incomplete search problems associated with key-word matching when the same data is restructured as parametric attributes.

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Claim 5, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakayori et al., "Sakayori " (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,078) and further in view of Lee, (U.S. Patent No. 4,610,000).

Claim 5 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2. However Sakayori does not explicitly disclose patch information comprised in a component, ... wherein said client performs the patch processing to the applicable firmware ...

Lee teaches patch information comprised in a component, ... wherein said client performs the patch processing to the applicable firmware ... (col. 1 lines 30-34, "A feature of the invention is that the ROM [firmware] patch functions may be performed without the use of special control pins or high voltages, but through the use of sequences of addresses within the ordinary address range.").

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the ROM [firmware] patch process as disclosed by Lee to into the device component update process as disclosed in Sakayori. (col. 1 lines 35-37) so that ROM [equivalent to firmware] may be patched and repatched so that errors may be corrected by an application system designer.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

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As to dependent claim 9, the prior art of record does not anticipate nor suggest any component management device that registers the catalog as a data base in the storage unit when it gets the permission.

The application of getting quotation of a catalog of parts is well known in the art. However, the prior art of record does not teach "any component management device that registers the catalog as a data base in the storage unit when it gets the permission" in the specific combination as recited in claim 9.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lam et al., U.S. Patent 5,926,636: Communications across a computer system network and methods for managing components in a heterogeneous computer system network.

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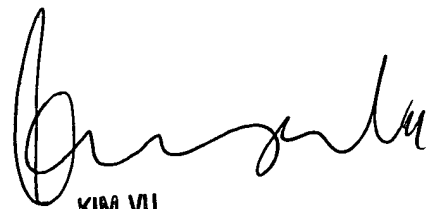
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GWEN LIANG whose telephone number is 703-305-3985. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, KIM VU can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

G.L.
July 15, 2002



KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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